

Appl. No. : 10/019,754
Filed : April 30, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. **(Previously presented)** An artificial dura mater which is formed as an integral molding of an amorphous or low crystallinity polymer and structural reinforcement, wherein the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer and the structural reinforcement are integrated by bonding, fusion or impregnation,

the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer having a degree of crystallinity of 20% or lower,

the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer having an elastic modulus at 5% extension of 10 MPa or lower, and

the structural reinforcement having an elastic modulus at 5% extension of greater than 10 MPa.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled)

6. **(Previously presented)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 4 wherein the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer has a Tg of 15°C or lower and the structural reinforcement has a Tg of higher than 15°C.

7. **(Previously presented)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 4 wherein the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer has a tensile elongation at breaking of 200 % or greater and the structural reinforcement has a tensile elongation at breaking of less than 200%.

8. **(Currently amended)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 4 wherein the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer has an elastic modulus ~~of the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer~~ at 37°C is of 1×10^8 Pa or less.

9. **(Currently amended)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein amorphous or low crystallinity polymer has a ratio of relaxation elastic modulus at 23°C/elastic modulus at ~~normal temperature~~ 37°C of 0.3 or greater.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Original)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein the Tg of the structural reinforcement is higher than 15°C.

12. **(Original)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein the tensile elongation at break of the structural reinforcement is less than 200 %.

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13. **(Original)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein the weight of the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer is 10 to 98 % of the total weight of the integral molding.

14. **(Original)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein the weight of the structural reinforcement is 2 % or more of the total weight of the integral molding.

15. **(Currently amended)** The artificial dura mater according to claim ~~4~~3 wherein the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer is biodegradable.

16. **(Original)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein the structural reinforcement is biodegradable.

17. **(Original)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer is biodegradable and the structural reinforcement is non-biodegradable.

18. **(Original)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein the structural reinforcement is non-biodegradable.

19. **(Original)** The artificial dura mater according to claim 3 wherein the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer is non-biodegradable and the structural reinforcement is biodegradable.

20. **(Currently amended)** A method for preparing ~~an~~ the artificial dura mater of Claim 3, comprising the step of integrating ~~an~~ the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer and a structural reinforcement by bonding, fusing or impregnating to give an integrally molded artificial dura mater, wherein the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer has an elastic modulus at 5% extension of 10 MPa or lower, and the structural reinforcement has an elastic modulus at 5% extension of greater than 10 MPa.

21. **(Currently amended)** A method for preparing ~~an~~ the artificial dura mater of Claim 3, comprising the steps of:

obtaining ~~an~~ the amorphous or low crystallinity polymer;

dissolving the polymer in a solvent to give a polymer solution; and

removing the solvent from the impregnated structural reinforcement to form an integrated molding comprising the structural reinforcement and the polymer without forming another layer in between, thereby forming said artificial dura mater.

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22. **(Currently amended)** A method for preparing ~~an~~ the artificial dura mater of Claim 3, comprising the steps of:

melting the surface of a molding of a copolymer of L-lactic acid and ϵ -caprolactone by spraying dioxane thereon;

press-bonding a polyglycolic acid non-woven fabric to the molten surface to form an integral molding; and

subjecting the integral molding to vacuum drying to give the artificial dura mater.

23. **(Currently amended)** A method for preparing ~~an~~ the artificial dura mater of Claim 3, comprising the steps of:

inserting a rayon non-woven fabric between two moldings of a copolymer of L-lactic acid and ϵ -caprolactone to form a film;

subjecting the film to fusion pressing and fusion bonding to give an integral molding; and

subjecting the integral molding to vacuum drying to give the artificial dura mater.

24. **(Currently amended)** A method for preparing ~~an~~ the artificial dura mater of Claim 3, comprising the steps of:

melting the surface of a polyglycolic acid non-woven fabric by hexafluoro-isopropanol;

press-bonding the molten non-woven fabric onto soft polyurethane foam to form an integral molding; and

subjecting the integral molding to vacuum drying to give the artificial dura mater.

25. **(Currently amended)** A method for preparing ~~an~~ the artificial dura mater of Claim 3, comprising the steps of:

dissolving a polytetrafluoroethylene/propylene copolymer in a solvent to give a copolymer solution;

casting the copolymer solution on a glass plate having a rayon non-woven fabric thereon, followed by vulcanizing air drying to form a film; and

subjecting the film to vacuum drying to give the artificial dura mater.